

**NORTH ARLINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
NORTH ARLINGTON, NEW JERSEY
PUBLIC WORK SESSION**

May 18, 2026

5:40 p.m.

Board of Education Office

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. ROLL CALL

Dr. Hughes	Present
Mr. McDermott	Absent
Mrs. Higgins	Present
Mr. Smith	Present
Mr. Dorsett	Absent
Student Board Member	Absent

III. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

IV. STATEMENT OF PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

This Public Meeting of May 18, 2026, of the Board of Education of the Borough of North Arlington, in the County of Bergen, State of New Jersey, is called pursuant to a schedule of meetings adopted on January 6, 2025, as amended, and of notice given to the Clerk of the Borough of North Arlington and to the Librarian of the Free Public Library of North Arlington for posting therein as election notices are posted and of notice given to the Editor of the following newspapers: the Bergen RECORD of Hackensack and the Newark Star Ledger.

1. The Superintendent discussed potentially identifying a speaker for the high school graduation. Different people of interest were discussed. The Board suggested Steven Tanelli, Bergen County Commissioner Chairman. The Superintendent said that he would relay that suggestion to the High School Administration.
2. The Superintendent reviewed the 2025-2026 District and Board Goals. He also reviewed the District and Board 2026-2027.
3. Dr. Hughes inquired about how chronic absenteeism and excused absences are handled in our district. The Superintendent reviewed Board Policy and further stated that the State is very misleading in regards to excused absences, because students' absences are counted toward chronic absenteeism even with medical certification. He also said that there is a provision in place to appeal.
4. As per previous discussions with the Board, the Superintendent stated that he and the School Business Administrator were going to reach out to Chief Horton regarding potential criminal charges for those families who are not paying their outstanding balances for school meals. He stated that they decided to hold off on the meeting because the district is presently working on residency complaints with the Commissioner's Office, since criminal charges may be filed against them as well. The Board supported pressing charges.
5. The Superintendent stated that we have good news! He said that PSE&G was doing a second round of the Clean Energy Program. The School Business Administrator stated that we will be getting new boilers for Jefferson School and the High School. She said that the project cost would be approximately \$1.3 million and said that PSE&G would pay \$666,000 toward that amount if the Board decided to move forward with the project.
6. The Superintendent informed the Board that we will be recognizing the Seal of Biliteracy and individual sports achievements at the June Board Meeting.

7. The Superintendent and School Business Administrator discussed the bid opening for the toilet renovations at the high school. The School Business Administrator said that we came in under budget, the lowest responsive bid coming in at \$395,000. She said that this was on tonight's agenda for Board approval.
8. The Superintendent stated that he and the School Business Administrator received another email from the owner of the private gym in town: NJHIT. The owner stated that he hopes the Board is able to work around current policy and help out a community business by offering up school space. He stated that his new site is at the location of where the fire was in Belleville. The Board unanimously decided to keep the current policy in place.
9. The Superintendent said that a major topic that he brought back from a recent conference was aspects of scheduling at the secondary schools. He said that he would discuss it in more detail during Executive Session, since it relates to contractual language, for the high school and middle school schedules.
10. Mrs. Higgins inquired about the reading lists that were on the draft agenda. She wanted to make sure that they were removed and not on the final copy of the agenda. The Superintendent said that it was removed from the final agenda. The only packets on the May agenda were for Pre-K and Kindergarten. The elementary, middle school, and high school summer reading lists would be on the June agenda.
11. Mrs. Higgins inquired about what the school policy is if a student athlete is failing a grade. She asked how that is handled. She said she was concerned with students participating in activities if they are failing classes. She asked if anyone was checking on their grades. The Superintendent said that he would get the procedures from the Supervisor of Guidance and Athletic Director and report back to the Board..

Motion to move to Executive Session at 6:07 p.m. made by Mr. Smith, second by Dr. Hughes. There was no discussion. On Roll Call all Board members present voted in the affirmative and none in the negative, it was so ordered.

Respectfully,

Samantha Dembowski
SD:at